



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Sarcoidosis is an inflammatory disease that affects how the body's organs function. Sarcoidosis is characterized by an overactive immune system, resulting in the growth of inflammatory cells throughout the body and subsequent tissue damage; and
- WHEREAS: Sarcoidosis was first recognized more than a century ago. While the cause of the disease remains unknown, ongoing research suggests that bacteria, viruses, or chemicals may trigger its onset; and
- WHEREAS: Once considered rare, sarcoidosis is now relatively common and affects individuals worldwide. Though the disease can occur in individuals of any age or race, sarcoidosis is more frequent among adults between the ages of 20 and 40 in certain ethnic groups; and
- WHEREAS: Approximately 200,000 individuals in the United States are affected by sarcoidosis; and
- WHEREAS: Sarcoidosis typically affects the lungs and lymph nodes, but those affected by the disease may also experience symptoms related to other organs, including the eyes, liver, salivary glands, sinuses, kidneys, heart, bones, muscles, brain, skin, and nervous system; and
- WHEREAS: Sarcoidosis Awareness Month provides opportunities to increase public awareness and promote greater understanding of the disease. The State of Georgia recognizes the organizations and individuals working to enhance knowledge of the disease through event outreach, educational opportunities, and screening programs that promote lifesaving diagnostic testing for early detection; and
- WHEREAS: Sarcoidosis Who, Savannah Sarcoidosis Support Group, Sarcoidosis Support Group of Atlanta, and other groups across the state are dedicated to raising awareness of sarcoidosis, improving treatment options, and supporting those affected by the disease; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2018 as SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF